



# Office of Environmental Health E-Newsletter

**September 2004**

---

## **Newsletter Moves to Electronic Version Only**

Effective with the next edition, hard copies of this newsletter will no longer be mailed through the U.S Postal Service. An electronic copy will be sent to each of the 15 Arizona County Environmental Health Directors/Managers for further distribution. In addition, notice will be sent to all subscribers of the Azsafefood Listserv alerting them that a new edition is available at the ADHS website. So, we encourage everyone to join the Listserv (see article below for details on joining the Listserv).

---

## **New Sanitarian Rules Take Effect on September 11, 2004**

Two notable rule changes impacting Sanitarian registration and the annual registration renewal process take effect this month.

Effective on September 11, 2004, if an Arizona Sanitarian

applicant is registered, licensed, or certified in another jurisdiction and their registration process was equivalent to or more stringent than the State of Arizona's, the applicant can become registered without sitting for the examination. The applicant must still apply to and receive approval from the Arizona Sanitarian's Council.

More importantly for current Arizona Registered Sanitarians, an Arizona Registered Sanitarian will be required to obtain 12 contact hours of continuing education credit each calendar year for the upcoming year's registration renewal process. Starting in calendar year 2005 (January 1<sup>st</sup>), each Sanitarian must obtain 12 contact hours for their 2006 registration renewal. This new requirement does not apply to the 2005 renewal. In addition, unlike a previous rule, there are no carryover mechanisms. Contact hours must be earned the calendar year prior to the renewal.

For additional information, contact Don Herrington, RS, Arizona Sanitarian's Council Chair at (602) 364-3142, [herrind@hs.state.az.us](mailto:herrind@hs.state.az.us), or the

Arizona Sanitarian's Council Website at [www.azdhs.gov/phs/oeh/rs](http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/oeh/rs).

---

## **Arizona Sanitarian's Council News**

The Arizona Sanitarian's Council met on September 3, 2004. Updates were made on all pending rule changes impacting the Council's activities.

The Council processed six new Sanitarian certificates from a pool of 14 candidates that took the most recent examination. The examination pass rate was 43% for this group.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for 10 AM, December 3, 2004 at the ADHS Building. For more details, contact Don Herrington, RS, Arizona Sanitarian's Council Chair at (602) 364-3142 or [herrind@hs.state.az.us](mailto:herrind@hs.state.az.us).

---



## Arizona Update on the National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards

Earlier this summer, representatives from La Paz, Pinal, Maricopa, and Yavapai Counties along with representative from ADHS attended a four-day FDA *Program Standards Audit Course* in Dallas, Texas. The course was designed to prepare both auditors and auditees to begin the audit process involved in the National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards. The Program Standards is a voluntary, comprehensive, self-evaluation of retail food regulatory programs. In addition to the four counties that participated in the course, Coconino, Greenlee, and Pima Counties have enrolled in the program and they are engaged in their self-assessments or baseline studies.

For more information on the Programs Standards, go to the FDA website at [vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/ret-toc.html](http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/ret-toc.html)

---

## The University of Arizona and ADHS Launch the AZsafefood Listserv

The Azsafefood Listserv has been established in a collaborative effort between

The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Office and ADHS. The Listserv is designed to serve as a communication tool for Arizona Registered Sanitarians and other individuals with an interest in food safety and related environmental issues in Arizona. This has a huge potential to become an effective tool to enhance communication among public health and food safety professionals in Arizona. Over 400 invitations to join the Listserv were sent and there are currently over 90 individuals enrolled.

Considering the Listserv is being operated by The University of Arizona, use of the Listserv for commercial purposes is strictly prohibited. This mechanism helps minimize or eliminate spam and other junk you may have experienced on other Listservs. Please consider joining if you are interested in keeping in touch with your fellow Arizona colleagues. Contact Bob Gomez at [gomezr@hs.state.az.us](mailto:gomezr@hs.state.az.us) to join the Listserv.

---

## Training News

The FDA will be presenting a four-day training course, *Food Code Train the Trainer*, tentatively scheduled for the week of February 7, 2005 at the ADHS Building in Phoenix.

The training course objective is to prepare individuals to present

the *Food Code* training course, which is designed to enhance knowledge and appropriate application of the Food Code.

The course will have a blend of topics to develop and enhance a trainer's presentation skills, techniques, and methods along with technical components and public health rational of the Food Code.

Those County and State representatives interested in this opportunity should coordinate their registration and attendance with their management. All others can contact Bob Gomez, RS, at (602) 364-3140 or [gomezr@hs.state.az.us](mailto:gomezr@hs.state.az.us).

The Arizona County Department of Environmental Health Services Association (ACDEHSA) is planning for its annual educational conference. The conference is scheduled for February 16 and 17, 2005 in Laughlin, Nevada. This year's topics will focus on food safety and food biosecurity. As more details are made available, we will keep you updated.

---

## ADHS Food Biosecurity Update

ADHS recently hired Brigitte Dufour, RS, as the Food Biosecurity Specialist. Brigitte comes from Maricopa County where she was in the Chain

Food Program. She is currently preparing to make visits to each of the 15 Arizona Counties to determine the degree and need for food vulnerability assessments. Food biosecurity related to bioterrorism activities is a new and emerging issue for all of us involved in food safety.

Welcome aboard Brigitte!  
Brigitte Dufour can be reached at (602) 364-3130 or [dufourb@hs.state.az.us](mailto:dufourb@hs.state.az.us).

---

### **ADHS Changes Home Page Address**

The ADHS Website Home Page address has changed to [www.azdhs.gov](http://www.azdhs.gov). Please update your bookmarks.

---

### **Rule Change Updates**

The Arizona Bottled Water rule changes are going to be presented to the Governor's Regulatory Review Council on September 14, 2004. This is the final step in the rule change/rulemaking process.

ADHS is beginning work on rule changes under Title 9, Chapter 8 for Schools and Hotels, Motels and Tourist Courts. Updates will follow as progress is made. Don Herrington, RS, is the ADHS contact. He can be reached at (602) 364-3142 or [herrind@hs.state.az.us](mailto:herrind@hs.state.az.us).

### **So Long to Dave Pote**

Dave Pote, RS, Environmental Health Director for Gila County, recently announced that he has accepted a position with Alamosa, Colorado and San Luis Valley as their Regional Bioterrorism Coordinator. Good luck Dave!

---

### **Chris Sexton Retires**

After more than 26 years of service to the environmental health effort in Arizona, Chris Sexton, RS, is retiring from his position as Director of Environmental Health with Yavapai County.

Chris started with Pinal County as a field Sanitarian in 1978 and served as a Supervising Sanitarian until he accepted the Director position with Yavapai County in 1986.

Chris plans to run a real estate business to keep him busy. Best wishes to Chris!

---

Newsletter comments or questions can be directed to Bob Gomez, RS, Program Manager for Food Safety and Environmental Services at (602) 364-3140 or [gomezr@hs.state.az.us](mailto:gomezr@hs.state.az.us)

---